

## TWO WOMEN'S LOVE AND ONE MAN'S PERIL.

## EFFIE SHANNON APPEARS AS POOR "MANON LESCAUT."



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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

Countess Bokara, a wealthy young Englishman, goes to Bulgaria on a secret mission for the Government, in order to oppose Russian influence there. He finds the Princess, his beloved, leader of the anti-Russian faction, and partisan of the reigning prince. She is supposed to favor Russia, and to be treacherous to Bulgaria, a Russian Duke. The Duke, for this, has sent General Zoloff, who is Wintthrop's father, to arrest the Princess. Wintthrop, for Count Bokara, as he calls himself, is committed to the Prince's cause.

The Princess, at a Russian party in Bulgaria, meets Wintthrop and saves him from arrest. Wintthrop joins his faction and gives him a week to decide. The Duke, through the advice of Countess Bokara, sends him to Wintthrop's home, where he is received with two officers named Zoloff and Spernow. They are devoted to the Princess. The Duke, in the form of a band of patriots to fight for Christina. The patriots are to drill at Wintthrop's house.

Countess Bokara, through a spy, learns the true object of Wintthrop's conspiracy. To put Christina on the throne, Christina, who is in love with the Princess, in order to play the latter's part.

The conspirators decide to secretly imprison the Princess to keep her from her true love. The Duke, however, comes to Wintthrop's house, not knowing of either plan, and tells him she has sent the Princess a telegram.

Wintthrop then brings the woman face to face. The Princess fails to satisfy the Countess, who then informs her that the Princess will doubtless receive the patented rose on her arrival home, but bears the way when he tries to leave home.

Wintthrop escapes in time to save the Princess. She makes Wintthrop release the Countess. Wintthrop forces the Princess to promise to marry Duke Spernow. Spernow decides to leave Wintthrop.

CHAPTER IX.  
The Quarrel.

ZOLOFF called soon after. He gathered from Duke Spernow's intent to force a quarrel on me a fresh move on the part of the Countess, and also

"And never again so long as my heart beats will I hold a feeling such as that which fills it now."

He at once sensed danger and warned me that efforts would be made to arrest me secretly in order to avert the duel which I had suggested that I was in danger to avoid the Duke.

"Would God that I could have gone otherwise for us," she breathed, her eyes gazing lovingly into my face, with infinite tenderness.

I carried her fingers to my lips and kissed them fervently.

"Go on, she cried passionately at me, on in thy love, or shall bid you stay, let the consequences be what they will."

I looked up into her radiant face, now flushed with her passion.

"Then good night, Zoloff will explain everything, and I am obliged to leave."

The ruby color faded rich and deep over her face, and, bending forward, she kissed me on the cheek. "I must tell me all that arrangements for the fight were made."

"The night is to come off?" I asked eagerly.

"Of course," said Spernow, in surprise, not guessing our suspicion.

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